

Aus dem Fachbereich Amerikanistik
der Universität-Gesamthochschule Paderborn
Prof. Dr. phil. P. Freese

Vater-Sohn-Beziehungen in ausgewählten Romanen und Stories von Richard Russo, Raymond Carver, Richard Ford und John Updike

Dissertation
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Genia Blanck

1. Abstract (englisch)

The father-son-relationship has become a more and more important and favourite issue not only in psychological theories but also in contemporary American literature. The motive of the father-son-conflict is treated as a topic of central importance in many works of well-known authors.

The male identity formation is strongly influenced by the way of bonding between father and son. The various factors of interaction in between the family serve as role models for boys and men. The introduction into social values through a father or a mentor must be given in order to enable the son to lead a fulfilling life and to establish his own identity.

In the first part this study is concerned with an examination of the general aspects of the father-son-relationship either in historical or in contemporary regards. The ethnical and social categories as well as the impact of cultural settings and backgrounds have to be stressed for this subject in order to illustrate the importance of fatherhood.

Chapter 5, 6, 7 and 8 analyse the father-son-relationship in the works of Richard Russo, Raymond Carver, Richard Ford and John Updike. The chosen novels and stories emphasize the importance of fatherhood for the individuation process of the protagonists. The psychoanalytic theories are applied to the family structures depicted in the selected texts and allow a critical evaluation of the personalities of the fathers and their impact upon the development of their sons.